

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, independent claims 1, 28, 55, 58 and 59 have been amended; claims 5 and 65-68 have been canceled; and new dependent claims 69 and 70 have been added.

Independent claims 1, 28 and 55 have been amended to recite a load transfer structure connected between the vessel structure and suspending means which is arranged to transfer loads from the suspending means to the vessel structure (see pg. 8, lines 10-25 of the specification). Independent claims 58 and 59 already recite saddles for transferring downward forces to the vessel.

Claim 1 recites that "a top of the suspending means of the first stabilizer assembly is connected to a top of the suspending means of the second stabilizer assembly by a connection which is structurally separate from the vessel". That does not mean that there is no connection between the suspending means and the vessel, only that the two suspending means are connected to each other by a connection which is structurally separate from the vessel as has been made clear by the amendment to claim 1. Thus, it is clear that the suspending means are arranged to transmit loads to the vessel structure.

It is requested that the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

Claim 55 has been amended to delete the objectionable language.

The claims also stand rejected over Pollack in view of Simpson with the submergible bodies of those references being analogized to the presently claimed stabilizers. However, the submergible bodies of Pollack and Simpson are anchored to the seabed. They are not "suspended," as presently claimed and are not movable vertically relative to the seabed as presently claimed.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection based on those references should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing comments, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

If there are any questions relating to this Amendment or the application in general, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: June 2, 2010

By: Alan E. Kopecki
Alan E. Kopecki
Registration No. 25813

Customer No. 21839
P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620